(c) the steps Government have taken so far to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There are five Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody.

(c) Government maintain regular contact with the Government of Sri Lanka through diplomatic channels for securing the earliest release and repatriation of detained Indian fishermen.

Restructuring of KVIC

†*67. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Khadi and Village Industries Commission has decided to shift from conventional industries of the country and encourage setting up of new industries to keep pace with the modernization in the era of globalization;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard; and

(c) the changes proposed by the Commission in the existing structure of village industries in the light of the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is committed to promote and develop traditional village industries in the country. It also encourages setting up of new industries to keep pace with such demands in the market.

(c) The KVIC is not perceived to be a financial institution and hence the KVIC has replaced 'Pattern Based Approach' with 'Project Based Approach', wherein the projects are appraised by the Banks. The KVIC's assistance, earlier was restricted mainly to a few traditional industries, however, now all kinds of industries are permissible except a small negative list.

Cut-Off of Indian News for the Indian High Commission in Islamabad

*68. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has cut-off Indian news for the Indian High Commission in Islamabad;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.